

# China: Science Recovering

Washington Post Foreign Service  
HONG KONG, Dec. 28—Peking's first publicized nuclear test in over 18 months, conducted on Friday, suggests that the Chinese Communist scientific establishment is operating normally again after suffering setbacks during Mao Tse-tung's Cultural Revolution.

The test was the second Chinese hydrogen bomb detonated. The first was exploded June 18, 1967. Peking's announced total of seven tests since October, 1964, has included the launching of a nuclear-tipped, short-range guided missile.

The Chinese did not, however, announce a test conducted on Christmas Eve last year and detected by outside specialists. Several sources, among them the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, believe that test to have misfired, possibly for mechanical reasons.

## Problem of Maoism

That failure, combined with other evidence, prompted Western and Japanese experts to estimate that China's nuclear production was being adversely affected by the ravages of the Cultural Revolution, Mao's ambitious effort to purify his country.

Though Mao tried to insulate China's scientific community from the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution, the violence generated in the course of his purges inevitably disrupted regions where Chinese nuclear, missile and other defense installations are centered.

enemy agent," was Chien San-chiang, the head of China's Atomic Energy Institute.

Now in his late fifties, Chien studied in Paris under Fred-eric Joliot-Curie, winning the physics award of the French Academy of Science for his work on gamma and alpha rays and the tri-partition of nuclear fission of uranium.

Also criticized was Wang Kan-chang, deputy director of the Atomic Energy Institute, who studied at the University of California before returning to China after the Communist Takeover.

Along with these and other

scientists, another target of Maoist agitators was Marshal Nieh Jung-chen, chief of the Scientific and Technological Commission for National Defense and the man most responsible for coordinating China's modern weapons development.

The resumption of successful nuclear tests after a lapse of 18 months, coupled with a reduction of ideological assaults on scientists, bolsters the view here that conservative Peking military and civilian leaders, fearful for China's future, have effectively halted the Cultural Revolution.

With this gradual return to normality, therefore, it is thought that the Chinese will begin to move forward to establish themselves as a nuclear power.

## "Leap Forward"

This aspiration was underlined in tonight's dispatch from Peking, which hailed the latest hydrogen bomb test as a "New leap forward in the development of China's nuclear weapons," adding that it has dealt "another blow" at American and Soviet policies of "nuclear threat and nuclear blackmail."

As it has before, Peking reiterated that its nuclear development is designed "entirely for the purpose of defense and for breaking the nuclear monopoly, with the ultimate aim of abolishing nuclear weapons."

stockpile of 70 to a 100 atomic bombs and a smaller number of hydrogen bombs.

Calculating the cost of Peking's weapons program, specialists estimate that the \$2.5 billion spent by the Chinese to explode their first atom bomb could have achieved the following:

Built 38 fertilizer plants to satisfy the country's total agricultural needs, or increased steel production by 3.5 million tons a year, or added 70 billion kilowatt hours to annual electricity output, or boosted domestic oil production by 1 million barrels a year.

Or, with the same sum, Peking could have constructed a total of 40 airfields, 400 short-range jet airliners, 100,000 two-ton trucks and 4000 miles of all-weather roads.

## Radioactive Material From Test Hits Japan

TOKYO, Dec. 28 (UPI)—Japanese chemists said today radioactive dust fell on the town of Niigata as a result of Communist China's test of a hydrogen bomb on Friday.

An official of Niigata University said rain had carried three "relatively mild" kinds of radioactive material onto the town. He said more dangerous particles, such as Strontium 90, could be expected by Sunday.

Meanwhile, the government of Prime Minister Eisako Sato denounced the Chinese test as ignoring "the sincere desire of the Japanese people for peace" and running counter to world public opinion.